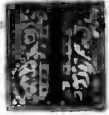


The Builder.

No. CCCXCV.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1850.



IN accordance with the promise last week, in our notice of the meeting of the Archaeological Association at Manchester,* we give an elevation and plan of a large warehouse now being erected near the infirmary in that city, under the direction of Mr. J. E. Grogan; not simply for itself, but as an example of the class of buildings with which the streets of that extraordinary city are being lined.† This warehouse is to be occupied by a firm extensively engaged in the American trade, and the interior arrangements are made with a view to suit their particular branch of Manchester business. For example, one of the upper stories contains a series of counting-houses, for the private use of the American merchants when in Manchester to make their purchases. The building is not fireproof, the floors being constructed with timber beams 14 in. by 10 in., laid from 7 to 8 feet apart, on which lie 3-inch planks, grooved, and tongued with strong hoop iron, forming the floor of the room over, and the ceiling of the room under. The beams are supported by iron columns over and resting upon each other. There is a cartway through the building (from side to side), under the apartments marked "Waiting office," and "Sale and sample rooms." The well, covered with glass roof, over part of this cartway, is for loading and unloading from the several stories.

There are hydraulic packing presses, worked by a steam-engine in the cellar, which also supplies power for working a fireproof hoist, and the teagles for loading and unloading the waggons in the cartway. The exterior is cased with Yorkshire stone: the walling tooled, and the dressings polished: the windows will be filled with plate glass.

The large quantity of light required in a warehouse of this description, demands a great number of windows, and they are necessarily very close to each other, as the distance from centre to centre of the piers is regulated by the position of the floor-beams. This arrangement destroys much of the breadth of effect desirable in a building of such large dimensions; and an attempt has been made in the structure before us to recover this quality, as much as possible, by only dressing the alternate windows. The effect of the building in execution is superior to that of the engraving. The whole cost will be about 8,000*l*.

No one should go to Manchester without seeing the process of cotton-printing, albeit in parts a sloppy operation, at which fine folks turn up their noses. At Hoyle's "Mayfield Print Works" there is a school for children, dwellings for the workpeople, and extensive buildings for the various steps in the process. In the first apartment you see girls (with strong magnifying glass), engraving the patterns on copper rollers; then the presses furnished with these rollers, at work, moved by two steam-engines of 25 horse-power each, which also do all the other work of the establish-

ment; further on you have drying-rooms, fitted up with cases filled with steam, over which the printed calico passes, and where the temperature is higher than is agreeable in August; and then you come to an enormous apartment, perhaps 120 feet long, 45 feet wide and 75 feet high, called the ageing place, where the printed stuff is exposed, hanging from the top in its whole length, to the oxygen of the atmosphere. Each piece, we should say, is dyed after the printing. It is afterwards washed in one steam-turned cylinder, and then put into another which makes 800 revolutions in a minute and so whirls it dry in something less than no time.‡ There are other processes, such as de-oxygenating the blue cloth to make a green, and numberless contrivances to lessen labour, such as an inclined plane from the upper stories to the ground-floor (a sort of "Russian mountain") down which the little urchins of boys come rattling at dinner time with the rapidity of "greased lightning;" but we may not stop to describe them. An enormous volume of patterns lying in the designer's room, the produce of one French house for one season, would form a text, too, for an instructive commentary, but we must abstain. One important result of the approaching international exhibition, will be, that we shall see where we are inferior to other nations, and learn what we have to strive for.

Houldsworth's Embroidery Establishment is another feature of Manchester. About 250 persons are employed there, mostly young girls and children, and very exquisite works are produced. It is to be hoped that means are afforded to these poor children to obtain instruction, although, as they work from six to six, there would seem to be little opportunity excepting at the Sunday school.

Before returning to the business of the meeting we looked in at the "Exhibition of the Works of Modern Artists" in the Royal Manchester Institution, which comprises 571 works. It includes naturally many works previously exhibited in London, amongst others by O'Neill, T. F. Marshall, Wingfield, Creswick, M'Innes, Boddington, J. E. Lauder, Anthony, R. Ansell, &c. The Heywood medal has been awarded to a picture by a name unknown to us—Thomas Faed, called "Jeannie Deans and the Duke of Argyle." It is a promising work, but the female figure is not Scott's Jeannie. In the water colour department, the medal has been given to F. M. Richardson, for No. 463, "Falls of the Tummell, Perthshire." There is an admirable "Portrait of a Lady," No. 111, by Hermann Kretschmer; and two sisters, Miss Mutrie and Miss A. Mutrie, exhibit representations of fruit and flowers which deserve high commendation: No. 117, pine apple, grapes, &c. by the latter, is especially excellent.

The excursion made by the association to Lancaster was most successful: the kindness of many of the inhabitants and the beauty of the places visited will not soon be forgotten by those who had the good fortune to go there.† Whalley Abbey, which was visited, on the road to Lancaster, has many features of interest. The Rev. Mr. Whitaker, son of the writer of the excellent "History of Whalley," acted as guide. The remains here are of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries: the abbey gateway is of great size, and, together with the north-east gateway, of striking proportions. The prin-

* See p. 397, note.

† See p. 414.

cipal ornamental feature remaining is the entrance to the chapter-house, a work of the Perpendicular period.

Whalley Church, close by, has a very interesting Early English chancel, with an effective memorial window at the east end by Messrs. Pugin and Hardman. A chapel here, enclosed with screenwork, carved by Etough, carver to Whalley Abbey, in 1510, was known as St. Mary's and St. Nicholas's Kage, one of the few instances of the application of this word to chantry chapels. A pew here, belonging to the Towneley family, was anciently called "St. Anton's Kage." In the churchyard are the remains of three curious crosses, probably antecedent to the Conquest. Pasley, the last Abbot of Whalley, executed in the time of Henry VIII., lies in the church. In expectation of the visit of the association, Mr. R. Moffatt Smith published a series of views of the antiquities at Whalley and Ribchester, which the members will find a pleasant reminder of the visit.*

Ribchester Church, also, has an Early English chancel, with triplet window at east end. The south porch has a room in the upper part, and stands higher than the aisle to which it is attached. Ribchester was an important Roman station, and will yield up evidence of this, at any time, on the application of a spade, with knowledge. Excavations had been made under the direction of the president of the Association, and the results, in the shape of Samian ware, glass, bones, coins, &c., were considerable. On the return to Manchester, Mr. Just and Mr. Harland, of the *Manchester Guardian*, read a very valuable joint paper on the Roman remains, roads, &c., in Ribchester.†

At Sidd, near Ribchester, is a small chapel of Norman structure (there is little architecture of this period remaining in the county); and here too, is an old house occupied by four families, which seemed to us worth illustrating.‡ Each occupant has a separate entrance, and architectural character is given to the building by an external central flight of steps to the upper floor, with large areaded porch.

The journey to Furness Abbey, to which a whole day (Wednesday, the 21st) was devoted, was a long one, and required two railways, omnibuses, and a steamboat, each way. But fine views, fresh air, a large party, including

* See Views of Architectural Antiquities in Whalley and Ribchester. By R. Moffatt Smith, Architect. 15, Dock-lane-street, Manchester.

† The following is a portrait of it:—It is clear that Ceorwinn was an important place under Roman rule, possessing privilege and governed by laws unknown to the other stations of the same line of military road. It is better to be presumed that it should exhibit a greater extent of area, and richer and more numerous remains than any other station in Antonine's 10th Itin. According to the measurements of the Ordnance survey, the rectangle marked out by the agger, where stood the ramparts of the station, included about ten statute acres. This area is larger than that of Manchester to the south, or than those of Brecon-magnon, Gloucun, &c. to the north. As it remains—pillars and shafts of columns belonging to a Roman temple, bath, a helmet, altar, and other inscribed stones, coins, pottery, &c.—show that in comparison with such remains on the other stations of the line Ribchester stands as pre-eminent as its ancient importance might lead us to expect. Indeed, however, about the middle of the 10th century, found it "but a poor thing." Camden describes it as a rich mine of antiquities, and copies with care the various fine inscriptions. Succeeding antiquaries, including Dr. Lough, Dr. Stukeley, Borewell, Chalmers, Dr. Whitaker, the historians of Whalley, and their discoveries, especially the great discovery of the bronze helmet and other antiquities, in 1794; the discoveries of remains of the Temple of Minerva, in 1811 and 1812; and the subsequent discovery of stone, pottery, coins, &c., all consoling to accommodate a treasure of interesting antiquities, which, it is lamentable to add, for want of some local or county museum, like those at Newmarket-Tyne and York, have been either lost or scattered: all little now remains of these extraordinary proofs of the Roman power in this part of the kingdom. One solitary inscribed altar is at the vicarage at Ribchester, with a few coins, a fibula, a bulla, and some fragments of Samian ware, and of coarser pottery; two others are within the precincts of St. John's College, Cambridge: one is at the catholick college of Maryburgh, in this county; some remains are at T. B. Whitaker's, Kage, the Hildon, near Burnley; and for the rest, they are scattered in various parts of the kingdom, including Preston, Lancaster, Chester, Tabley Hall, Yorkshire, &c. The British Museum contains those formerly in the Towneley Museum.

‡ See page 412.